

Applicants respectfully request that this be considered a petition therefor. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee(s) due in this connection to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

ADDITIONAL FEE

Please charge any insufficiency of fees, or credit any excess, to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the amendments above and the following comments.

Claims 1 and 9 are allowed. Claims 2-8 and 10-20 are pending. Amendments have been made to claims 2-8 and 10 in response to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. New claims 11-20 have been added. New claims 11 and 12 are from the original filed claim 2. New claim 13 is supported by claim 3 as originally filed. New claim 14 is supported by claim 5 as originally filed. New claims 15-17 are supported by claim 6 as originally filed. New claim 18 is supported by original claim 8. New claims 19-20 are supported by original claim 10. A clean copy of these claims is presented above. A mark-up showing the changes that have been made to these claims using brackets and underlining is attached. It is believed that no new matter has been added.

The Examiner rejected claims 2-8 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. In response, Applicants point out that claims 2-8 and 10 have been amended, whereby new dependent claims 11-20 have been added.

For the record, Applicants emphasize that although the claims were amended to overcome this rejection, and, therefore, might be considered to have been amended for a reason substantially related to patentability, a fair reading of the amended claims will reveal that the departures from the previous claims were for clarification purposes only, and that Applicants did not narrow the claims in any material respect. Therefore, Applicants submit that the amended claims are entitled to the full range of equivalents.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the Examiner would be fully justified to reconsider and to withdraw this rejection. An early notice that this rejection has been reconsidered and withdrawn is, therefore, earnestly solicited.

Applicants believe that the foregoing constitutes a bona fide response to all outstanding objections and rejections.

Applicants also believe that this application is in condition for immediate allowance.

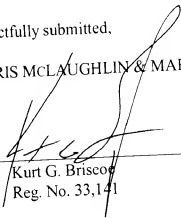
However, should any issue(s) of a minor nature remain, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned at telephone number (212) 808-0700 so that the issue(s) might be promptly resolved.

Early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

NORRIS McLAUGHLIN & MARCUS, P.A.

By


Kurt G. Briscoe
Reg. No. 33,141

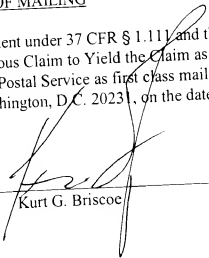
220 East 42nd Street
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New York, New York 10017
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that the foregoing Amendment under 37 CFR § 1.111 and the attached Mark-Up Showing the Changes Made in the Previous Claim to Yield the Claim as Amended Above are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Hon. Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the date indicated below:

Date: August 15, 2002

By


Kurt G. Briscoe

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AUG 23 2002

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OLIVER NICKEL
USSN 09 844,083

**MARK-UP SHOWING THE CHANGES MADE IN THE PREVIOUS CLAIM TO YIELD
THE CLAIM AS AMENDED ABOVE**

2. (Amended Once) The masking tape of claim 1, wherein the adhesive tape is a heat-resistant adhesive tape for the automobile painter[, a so-called fine line tape,] with a heat resistance [especially] at temperatures up to 130° C (1 hour) [especially one with a sheet backing of polypropylene or particularly of soft PVC].

3. (Amended Once) The masking tape of claim 1, wherein the adhesive tape is 15 to 75 mm wide[and, in particular 19 to 30 mm wide].

4. (Amended Once) The masking tape of claim 1, wherein the masking material is selected from the group consisting [consists] of paper, woven fabric, nonwoven fabric [or] and another sheet material capable of adhering.

5. (Amended Once) The masking tape of claim 1, wherein the masking material is unbleached Kraft paper, having a weight of 30 to 40 g/m² and a width [especially] of 15 to 50 cm [and particularly of 20 to 40 cm].

6. (Amended Once) The masking tape of claim 1, wherein the masking sheet is a polyolefin sheet which has a thickness of 7 to 40 mm [and especially of 8 to 20 mm, consists

especially] and a width of 0.5 to 2 m [of polyolefin, particularly polyethylene and especially is corona pretreated, and the width, in particular, is 0.5 to 2 m].

7. (Amended Once) The masking tape of claim 1, wherein the masking sheet is folded so that it can be extended[, follows, in particular,] along the external dimensions of the masking material and is folded against the masking material in accordion fashion.

8. (Amended Once) The masking tape of claim 1, wherein a portion of the edge region of the pressure-sensitive adhesive composition to which the masking material adheres is 1 to 5 [and particularly 2 to 4] mm wide and [a] the portion of the edge region of the pressure-sensitive adhesive composition to which the masking sheet adheres is 1 to 5 [and, in particular, 2 to 4] mm wide.

10. (Amended Once) A method comprising applying the masking tape of claim 1 to a part[, especially an automobile part,] to be masked, and then subjecting said part to a surface treatment[, especially painting].